an Education Commission whose functions and responsibilities overlap with its functions of determining investment priorities and allocation of financial resources, as this could impair their ability to take an overall view and evolve inter-sectoral investment priorities.

(c) No decision has been taken so far.

Vacancies of Principals in Kendriya Vidyalayas

†1045. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the posts of regular principals in Kendriya Vidyalayas have been lying vacant for a long time; and

(b) if so, the number of the posts lying vacant and by when those vacancies would be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) It has been intimated by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan that 76 posts of Principals in Kendriya Vidyalayas are lying vacant as on 6.12.04. Some of these vacancies pertain to period prior to the financial year 2004-2005. Action has already been initiated to fill up the 76 regular vacancies.

National Commission of Education

1046. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CMP of the UPA Government promised for constitution of a National Commission on Education;

(b) if so, what action his Ministry has taken to constitute such a Commission;

(c) whether any discussion in this regard has been held with the Planning Commission;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) by when the proposed commission is going to be set up; and

(f) whether the Commission is going to focus only on higher and secondary education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The issue was discussed in an Inter Ministerial meeting on 17.8.2004, with the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Legal Affairs, Department of Expenditure and the Planning Commission. Subsequently, a note was submitted to the Prime Minister for consideration and the directions received in this regard are being processed.

Assistance to voluntary organisations/agencies

1047. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for providing assistance to voluntary organisations and agencies engaged in welfare of women and children/dissemination and spread of women education;

(b) whether it is a fact that only three NGOs from Tamil Nadu have been given a meagre assistance during the last three years;

(c) the amount released by Government to each of these organisations during the last three years and till date, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the agencies which are monitoring and auditing such organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The basic criteria used for selection of NGOs and other agencies for operating the programmes of Department of Women and Child Development include the following:

(i) Registered under one of the relevant statutory acts;

(ii) In existence for a period of at least three years after registration;